
State Water Resources Control Board

October 4, 2017

Notice Regarding Information and Future Updates on the Phase II Update of the Bay-Delta Plan

The purpose of this notice is to advise interested persons how they can stay informed on Phase II of the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) current process to update the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta) (Bay-Delta Plan) related to Sacramento River, Delta flow, and water project operational requirements.

Background

The Bay-Delta is a critically important natural resource for California and the nation. It is both the hub of California's water supply system and the most valuable estuary and wetlands on the western coast of the Americas. The Bay-Delta is also an estuary in ecological crisis. The State Water Board is responsible for protecting fish and wildlife uses in the Bay-Delta so is taking actions to address the current ecological crisis. Specifically, state law requires the adoption of Water Quality Control Plans that identify beneficial uses of waters and establish water quality objectives to reasonably protect these uses and implementation and monitoring elements. The State Water Board is in the process of reviewing and updating the Bay-Delta Plan to ensure the reasonable protection of fish and wildlife beneficial uses of water in the Bay-Delta watershed in a balanced manner considering other uses of water including agriculture, municipal, hydropower, recreation and other uses.

The Bay-Delta Plan is being updated in two separate phases. Phase I addresses flow requirements in the San Joaquin River watershed for the protection of fish and wildlife and salinity requirements in the southern Delta for the protection of agriculture. Information regarding Phase I is available at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/DeltaWQCP-Phase1>.

Phase II addresses the reasonable protection of fish and wildlife beneficial uses in the Sacramento River and its tributaries, the Delta, and the Mokelumne, Calaveras, and Cosumnes rivers (Delta eastside tributaries). Information regarding Phase II is available at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/DeltaWQCP-Phase2>.

The proposed Phase II changes to the Bay-Delta Plan include: new inflow requirements for the Sacramento River, its tributaries, and Delta eastside tributaries; new and modified Delta outflow requirements; new requirements for cold water habitat; new and modified interior Delta flow requirements; recommendations for complementary ecosystem protection actions that others should take; and adaptive management, monitoring, evaluation, special study, and reporting provisions.

A Fact Sheet providing additional information on the State Water Board's Phase II update of the Bay-Delta Plan, including a description of the proposed changes to the Bay-Delta Plan's water quality objectives and implementation approach, is available on the State Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/docs/201710_phaseII_factsheet.pdf.

To help inform potential Phase II implementation measures in the Bay-Delta Plan, State Water Board staff has posted a series of questions for public input on its website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/docs/201710_phaseII_input.pdf.

The questions provide an optional opportunity to provide early constructive and meaningful input to help develop effective and workable implementation measures for the Bay-Delta Plan.

Responses to the questions are **due by November 9, 2017**. A formal public comment period on the environmental and other analyses supporting proposed changes to the Bay-Delta Plan will occur at a later date. If you would like to receive notice of that formal comment period and other notices regarding the Phase II update of the Bay-Delta Plan, please inform the State Water Board per the procedures described below.

Future Notice on the Phase II Update of the Bay-Delta Plan

The State Water Board is circulating this notice broadly to ensure that all interested parties are included on the State Water Board's distribution list for the project. To receive future State Water Board announcements about the Phase II update of the Bay-Delta Plan, please subscribe to the State Water Board's email list for "Bay Delta Notices" under the Water Rights category at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml. If you have already subscribed to this email distribution list, no additional action is needed.

To ensure timely delivery of updates and other information, the State Water Board encourages interested persons to sign up to receive notices via email. However, if you are unable to receive emails, you may request to be placed on a hard copy mailing list. If you do not request to be placed on this mailing list or to remain on the hard copy mailing list, you will not receive information via hard copy in the mail. To be placed on the hard copy mailing list, you must notify Ryan Babb at: P.O. Box 2000; Sacramento, CA 95812-2000, **by November 9, 2017**. If you do not request to be placed on the hard copy mailing list by November 9, 2017, you will not receive hard copy notices until such time as you request to be placed on the mailing list.

Questions and Additional Information

Please direct any questions regarding this correspondence to Jason Baker at: (916) 341-5354 or by email at: Jason.Baker@waterboards.ca.gov.